

The Bloomfield Citizen.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1886.

The Last Word.

In a recent issue of THE CITIZEN the organization of a Young Men's Christian Association was considered, and the question raised as to its wisdom or advisability.

The history of past efforts to establish permanent societies here, whether for literary, social or moral ends, has been one of failure. The temperance movements of the past three or four years may serve as a convenient illustration. Much time, labor and money has been spent upon various schemes for the suppression of the liquor traffic with but a meagre and disheartening result. The same efforts employed in the ordinary channels of church work would have been at least as successful, and would not have occasioned the differences with which the past is disgraced.

It is the fashion to speak lightly of church usefulness, and to look to new agencies for all earnest, aggressive work. Is it not true that this very tendency of church members is accountable for whatever sluggishness or decay may be observable in the churches?

Yet their prior claims upon the Christian world cannot be denied. With flexible machinery it ought to be possible to adapt them to a great variety of uses. They ought not to become less, but more valuable to the world with each recurring year.

Nevertheless, the attractiveness of new methods cannot be overlooked. One cannot set bounds to the enthusiasm of young men. Theories must give way to facts, and facts are very stubborn.

Scientists submit their theories to what is known as the crucial test, by which their truth or falsity must be indubitably settled. It is evident that to the schemes of the young men this test is to be applied. The organization has been effected, meetings are to be held, and experience must determine the result.

No doubt for a time a temporary success will be achieved. So much might be expected to follow the use of novel machinery, with the aid of whatever social interest can be developed. When this stimulus shall be taken away the real test will come. Under such circumstances the attitude of every Christian heart should be unquestioned. Pride of opinion, malice or personal advancement have nothing to do with these matters. The glory of God not the glory of man should be the aim of every united movement, as well as of each individual heart.

Questioning as we do, the wisdom of the new organization, we yet bid it "God-speed" in its work, trusting that its members shall never forget their allegiance to the churches, and that the churches themselves will generously aid those who are earnestly striving in a new way to advance the cause of Christ in the world.

Father Duffy, of Brooklyn, has issued an order that the girls of the school under his charge shall not wear bangs; and some of the clergymen of St. Louis have united in a protest against the ballet in opera. When will the clergy learn to mind their own business and let other people's alone? What the wearing of bangs has to do with religion it is hard to see, and if the wearing of bangs and going to see the ballet is immoral and inconsistent with true religion, our churches hereabouts are in need of a thorough cleaning out. Is it not possible that members of churches are quite as able to judge of bangs and ballet as the pastors? It has been a great evil in all ages, that men have mistaken their ideas of religion for religion itself.

We went to the Casino the other night to see Ermine, for the third time, and found this more successful comic opera more indescribably laughable than ever before. Those who wish to enjoy a good laugh, listen to bright music, well sung and played, let him try Ermine.

If perchance he should have any objection to the short dresses of some of the singers, he need only buy a seat ten or twelve rows back and he will be safe. I sat in such a seat myself. In front of me sat an elderly man with a bald head on top but covered with a heavy fringe of side hair which he kept at right angles with his head, by passing his fingers through it at frequent intervals. In front of him and on each side of him were nothing but hats, and such hats. Most of the time I saw only the heads and shoulders of the people on the stage. There was a long narrow hole between the necks of rows of people, which commanded a view of a small section of the stage, not unlike that which could have been obtained by peering through an 18 inch pipe. The one thing in the way of feminine costume which more than any other suits our taste is a big hat,

but in a theater they become emblems of exasperating selfishness.

Could not the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western R.R. Co. be induced to start their Orange train six minutes earlier, or the "Express" six minutes later, or put one three minutes ahead and the other three minutes back, so that the Newark passengers might step from one train into the other at Roseville? There may be a good reason for the present kind of a connection, or rather disconnection, but it is not apparent. How would it be for some of the afflicted to interview Mr. Reasoner. Or better still persuade some one from Glen Ridge to see him about it. They seem to get all they want up there.

Still the owners of stone sidewalks will not shovel off the snow. The world, and this part of it is sadly wanting in practical Christianity. The indifference to other people's comfort manifested by owners of uncleaned walks, and those fiends who insist on wearing sealskin cloaks in cars, and then opening the windows to neutralize the effect, show that there are still many unlearned spots.

We hope all our readers enjoyed reading Mr. Simons' graphic description of the field of Gettysburg as much as we did ourselves. We consider it one of the finest bits of word-painting that we have seen this long time. We extend our thanks for the article and are sure our friends join with us.

LITERARY NOTES.

—Readers of the Atlantic Monthly will be glad that with the January number, the magazine will appear in entirely new type.

—Miss Larcom's little book, "Beckonings for Every Day," has for a subtitle, "A Calendar of Thought." But, though the days of the month are indicated, it is not limited to any single year, but is equally good—and excellently good—for all years.

—Rev. J. M. Buckley has prepared an interesting volume of notes of travel in unbeaten paths in Northern Europe, under the title of "The Midnight Sun."

—"Long Shore" is a day-book of religious selections for each day of the month. It has an ivory cover, hand-painted and tied with silk cord.

—Rose Terry Cooke's "No," is just ready. The only other title of recent work that approaches it in brevity is "She," by J. H. Haggard.

—The Holiday list of T. Y. Crowell & Co. includes a handsome complete edition of Tennyson's poems and dramas, with a portrait and 24 full-page illustrations by well-known artists, making perhaps the most complete American edition of the poet-laureate's works. It is uniform in size with "The Cambridge Library of Poetry and Song," and appears in cloth, morocco, and tree-calf. The "Red-Line Poets," 66 volumes in number, are re-issued with new bindings and designs, and improved make-up. There are also two new editions of these volumes of poetry, the 36 volumes bound in seal Russia, a handsome new variety of leather binding, and the 22 volumes of the "bamboo" edition, being a capital imitation in leather of the color and form of bamboo.

This latter beautiful form of binding, which has been in use in England for a year or two, has but recently been introduced here, and has found a general welcome, from its delicacy and quaintness. Crowell has also issued a library edition of the "English Poets," printed on laid paper, with uncut edges, with quiet ruby covers, forming desirable \$1.50 12mos. This edition now contains 15 volumes. The favorite illustrated edition of the "English Poets" now includes 20 volumes, and, in addition to the cloth, tree-calf, and morocco editions, there is now a fine \$7.00 padded Russia-calf or turkey-morocco edition, with round corners, solid gold edges, full linings, and plain script titles on side and back. Crowell publishes "The Christmas Country, and Other Tales," translated from the Danish and German by Mary J. Safford, and illustrated by Charles Copeland (2mo, \$1.50). Also, Lydia Hoyt Farmer's "Boy's Book of Famous Rulers," fully illustrated and with many portraits. Also, on the same day, Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment." On the 15th of October comes "The Marquis of Posa," by Don Armado Palacio Valdes, translated from the Spanish by Nathan Haskell Dole. This is the same story that is known as "Marta y Maria." There are many other important books on the Crowell list that we shall speak of more at length further on.

—"Girls Who Became Famous," (T. Y. Crowell & Co., by Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton, is a work which may be considered as a companion volume to Mrs. Bolton's "Poor Boys Who Became Famous," one of the most valuable works for young people which has appeared in recent years. The present work was written on very much the same plan as the first, consisting of short biographical sketches of women who have become famous in art, literature, science and philanthropy. It differs from the first only in the fact that the persons whose careers are sketched did not all begin life in poverty. In every case, however, their rise to eminence was due to the same qualities which made the poor boys famous, namely, energy, perseverance, industry, strength and nobility of character. The lives of nineteen women are given in the volume, beginning with Harriet Beecher Stowe and concluding with Jean Ingelow and all teach the one great lesson, which cannot be taught too strongly or too often, that the elements of true success in life in any sphere or calling are found only in earnestness of purpose, strength of endeavor and purity of motive. The accounts of the life and work of such women as Mary Lyon, the founder of Mount Holyoke Seminary; of Mary A. Livermore, the philanthropist and lecturer; of Margaret

Fuller Ossoli, the author and journalist, are in themselves an inspiration of high and noble living. We could heartily wish that this volume were placed in the hands of every young girl in the land.

—The Columbia Bicycle Calendar '87, just issued by the Pope Manufacturing Co., of Boston, is in many respects a more truly artistic and elegant work in chromolithography and the letterpress than the Columbia Calendar of '86, which calendar, it will be remembered, was the most convenient artistic similar work of the year. As in the present calendar, each day of the year appears upon a separate slip, with an extract pertaining to "cycling from leading publications and prominent writers on both sides of the ocean. The calendar proper is mounted upon a back of heavy board, upon which is exquisitely executed in oil color, by G. H. Buck, of New York, an allegorical scene, representing the earth resting among the clouds, and Thomas Stevens, the famous bicyclist, is seen in heroic size, astride his Columbia bicycle, circumnavigating the globe. The bright sunshine illumines one side, while the pale moonlight gives a contrasting aspect to the other, and, together, make a remarkable atmospheric effect, charmingly vivid, yet artistically toned and softened. A smaller portion of the board is devoted to a picture of a mounted bicyclist, speeding along a pleasant country road. The new calendar, as a work of art, is worthy of a place in office, library or parlor.

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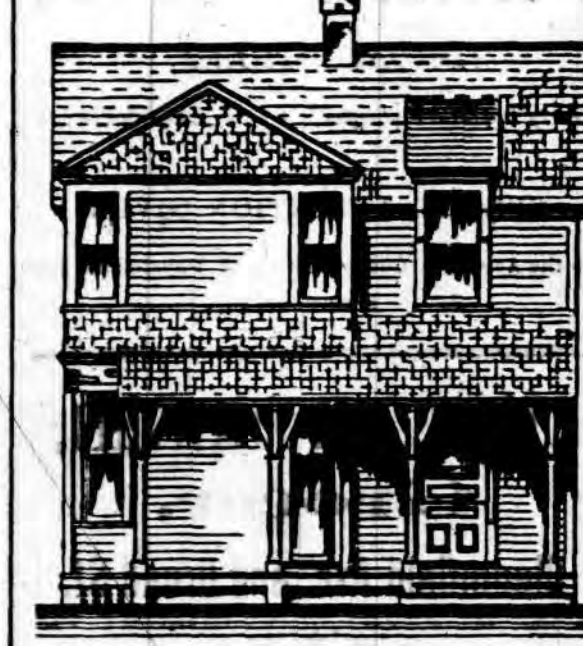
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